

XLVII.—*Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 360.]

90. 'The Auk.'

[‘The Auk,’ a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. IV. No. 2, April, No. 3, July, 1887.]

In the April part Mr. Cory describes *Ramphocinclus sanctæ-luciæ*, from St. Lucia, and *Blacicus martinicensis*, from Martinique; and his “List of the Birds of the West Indies” has now reached to the Columbæ, Gallinæ, and some of the Limicolæ. In the July part he describes as new *Lamproornis hendersoni*, from Old Providence Island, and *Vireosylva canescens*, *Icterus lawrencii*, *Mimus magnirostris*, *Engyptila neoxena*, and *Dendroica flavida*, all from St. Andrew’s Island, in the Caribbean Sea; also, in a later paper, *Euethia grandior* from the former; and a list of the species obtained on these two islands during the winter of 1886–87 is given. Papers by Mr. F. W. Langdon on the mountain-districts of Eastern Tennessee, and Mr. G. B. Sennett on the neighbouring Western North-Carolina Mountains, have an interesting and confirmatory bearing upon Mr. W. Brewster’s previous observations in that, ornithologically, little-known country. Dr. Stejneger contributes a supplementary note on the genus *Acanthis*, wherein he states that specimens from Austria prove to be identical with typical British *A. cabaret*, of which *A. rufescens* (Vieillot) is a true synonym. Mr. W. Brewster distinguishes *Symphemia semipalmata inornata*, *Phalacroptilus nuttalli nitidus*, and *Vireo noveboracensis maynardi* as new subspecies. A paper by Mr. F. C. Browne, reproducing his original notes on some Glossy Ibises obtained in New England in 1850, elicits from Mr. J. H. Sage a copy of the announcement published in the Middletown Conn. ‘Sentinel and Witness’ of May 21st, 1850, by a Dr. Barratt, who considers it “highly probable” that these “Black Egyptian Ibises . . . may have been driven to the south by the late storms, after crossing Behring’s Straits—having left the valley of the Nile in March, as we suppose” (p. 253). Mr.

W. Lloyd commences a series of notes on about 240 species observed in Western Texas. Mr. Cox's account of the capture in North-eastern New Brunswick of a supposed Turkey, but which proved to be what the Jamaica negro called "Turkey with a surname" (i. e. *Cathartes aura*), is amusing, and appears to be the furthest north on record for this Vulture by some 200 miles. A new subspecies of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*, from the head of the Bay of Fundy, is described by Mr. J. Dwight, jun.

Mr. W. E. D. Scott's continuation of his remarks on the avifauna of portions of Arizona calls for no special remark from us. Far otherwise is it with his two harrowing papers upon "The present condition of some of the Bird-rookeries on the Gulf coast of Florida;" and the end of his sad story of slaughter has not yet been told. Wooded islands, where only a very few years ago the Roseate Spoonbill, the Reddish Egret, all the common species of Herons, and the White Ibis, nested in myriads never to be forgotten by those who had visited the favoured spots, were now almost entirely deserted, their former occupants having been exterminated by the "plume-hunters" for the northern market. One dealer alone, at Fort Myers, on the Caloosahatchie, regularly employed from forty to sixty gunners at an average price of 40 cents per plume or flat skin. At a breeding-place of the Reddish Egrets, Mr. Scott found a huge pile of dead, half-decayed birds which had recently been shot from their nests in the trees above, and he counted over 200 from which the back-plumes had been torn away. A small island containing a Brown Pelican's "rookery" was protected by the owner, who proposed to let the unhappy birds rear their young; but one day, during his absence from home, an old French dealer came with a boat and deliberately killed off about 180 old birds as they were feeding their young, which of course died of starvation. Such are merely a few instances of the extermination that is being conducted on a truly American scale (as regards its thoroughness) for the supply of articles required by the exigencies of the female fashion

of the day. So long as this fashion lasts, no remonstrances from us or from "Selborne Societies," or from any other source, will, we are well aware, have the slightest effect upon the indirect, but real, instigators of this slaughter; all that can be hoped for is that the freaks of feminine vanity may take some other and less harmful direction.

Under "Notes and News" are some important items of information respecting the American Museum of Natural History of New York City; but these are reserved for a separate heading in our Notices, as being more likely to attract attention there than in the present review.

91. *Barboza du Bocage on new Birds from St. Thomé.*

[Oiseaux nouveaux de l'Ile St. Thomé: par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Acad. Sci. Lisboa, no. xlv. p. 250.]

The species described as new are *Cinnyris newtoni* (near to *C. hartlaubi* of Prince's Island), named after Mr. Francis Newton; and *Prinia mollerii*, brought back by M. Moller, a botanist who was exploring St. Thomé.

92. *Bombay Natural History Society's Journal.*

[The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. Edited by R. A. Sterndale and E. H. Aitken. Vol. II. nos. 1, 2. Bombay: 1887.]

These two numbers contain several minor papers which it is hardly necessary to enumerate, and "Notes on some Birds seen in a Journey through Persia," by G. J. R. Rayment, A.V.D.

93. *British Association's Report on Migrations in 1886.*

[Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1886. By Messrs. J. A. Harvie-Brown, J. Cordeaux, R. M. Barrington, A. G. More, and W. Eagle Clarke. Eighth Report. 8vo. McFarlane and Erskine, Edinburgh: 1887.]

We are glad to see that our suggestion of last year (*Ibis*, 1886, p. 516) has been adopted, and that the names of the various stations are given in the present Report, instead of numerals referring to a list on the map. Observations for 1886 have borne good fruit with *Phylloscopus superciliosus*

from Sumburgh Head; *Agelæus phæniceus* from the Nash (probably a bird which had escaped from some vessel entering the Bristol Channel); the second Irish example of *Ijñæ torquilla* from Arran Island, co. Galway; the second and third Irish-taken *Muscicapa luctuosa*; and the record of an important immigration of *Dendrocopus major*, a very rare visitor to Ireland. Wings and legs from that country ascribed to the Reed Warbler belong, as we believe, to the Blackcap and Garden Warbler. Condensation and a general abstract are still to be desired; and we heartily endorse Mr. W. Eagle Clarke's suggestion to his colleagues as to the adoption of a united report showing at a glance the significance and importance of each migratory movement, the area covered by it, and the species participating in it. Such errors as Charadriadæ for Charadriidæ, and Columbidae for Colymbidae (Divers) may perhaps be attributed to the printer; but we are sorry to see a member of the B.O.U. defying established custom, if not absolute law, and setting a bad example by persistently spelling the specific names with initial capitals where roman type is employed, although whenever italics are used capitals are not employed.

94. *Capen on the Eggs of the Birds of New England.*

[Oology of New England: a description of the eggs, nests, and breeding-habits of the Birds known to breed in New England, with coloured illustrations of their eggs. By Edwin A. Capen. Folio. Boston, 1886.]

This handsome work contains twenty-five plates and many hundreds of coloured figures which favourably challenge comparison with those in Mr. Seebohm's 'Eggs of British Birds.' An interesting feature is the illustration of an egg of the Heath Hen, the true *Cupidonia cupido* (Linn.), as distinguished from the Western Prairie Hen, *C. pinnata*, Brewster (*cf.* 'Auk,' ii. pp. 80-84). The former species is a remnant of the old stock which was once widely diffused throughout the Eastern States, but is now confined to Martha's Vineyard. The letterpress of this work is excellent. The account of the breeding of *Phalaropus fulicarius* in Maine,

in about 45° N. lat., on the authority of Mr. G. Boardman, shows a great extension southwards of its nesting-range as previously set down.

95. *Carazzi on some Italian Birds.*

[Appunti ornitologici. Comunicazione del socio Davide Carazzi. Boll. d. Soc. d. Naturalisti in Napoli, ser. 1, vol. i. fasc. 1, 1887.]

In these notes are recorded the occurrence of two examples of *Falco eleonoræ* near Spezia in 1878, and of *Pterocles alchata* near Leghorn in 1863. The latter is now in the museum at Florence, an apparently overlooked example of a species which had not previously been obtained on the mainland of Italy, as now politically restricted, although one obtained at Nice since its annexation by France is in the Florentine Museum.

96. *Collett on new Norwegian Birds.*

[Om 4 for Norges Fauna nye Fugle fundne i 1885 og 1886. Af Robert Collett. Vidensk. Forhandl. Christiania, 1887, no. 8.]

The four new visitors to Norway are *Turdus atrigularis*, obtained on December 3, 1886, *Pastor roseus* on September 30, 1885, and *Xema sabinii* on October 1, 1886, all from Throndhjemsfjord; and *Ardea purpurea* on June 1, 1886, about 60 kilometres from Christiania.

97. *Dixon (J. H.) on the Birds of Gairloch.*

[Gairloch in North-west Ross-shire: its Records, Traditions, Inhabitants, and Natural History, with a guide to Gairloch and Loch Maree, and a Map and illustrations. By John H. Dixon. 8vo. Edinburgh: 1886.]

In this interesting work Chapter VI. is devoted to a list of the birds of Gairloch, compiled with the aid of Mr. Osgood H. Mackenzie, of Inverness, whose observations extend over many years. The result of this partnership is one of the best local lists that we have ever read, with notes on more than 150 species. The evidence that the Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) breeds near Gairloch appears nearly conclusive.

98. *Green on Ocean Birds.*

[Ocean Birds. By J. F. Green. With a preface by A. G. Guillemard, and a treatise on skinning Birds by F. H. H. Guillemard. The illustrations by Frances E. Green. 4to. London: 1887. R. H. Porter.]

The author, who is, we believe, a member of the well-known firm of shipowners, and who has made several "round voyages," has endeavoured to produce a work which shall prove interesting and, at the same time, instructive, by giving an account of the birds which may be met with on the way to Australia by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and returning round Cape Horn. The writer's own observations are worthy of perusal, and the entire compilation is well conceived; but in execution it falls a little short. Some of the authorities quoted are of no weight, or else they are completely out of date in reference to such a subject; and, as an instance of the latter, when "Yarrell" is quoted, the reference is to the first edition (1843), an epoch at which the most erroneous ideas prevailed respecting the distribution of sea-birds. Transpositions in the numbering of plates ii. and iii. and of heads 6 and 7 in the latter are regrettable; and, much as we wish to speak well of a lady's work, high praise cannot be accorded to the illustrations. A copy of this book in the saloon of every ocean-going ship must necessarily stimulate a taste for observation; but if the MS. had been submitted to some judicious critic it would have been an advantage.

99. *Hartlaub on Birds from Eastern Equatorial Africa.*

[Dritter Beitrag zur Ornithologie der östlich-äquatorialen Gebiete Afrikas. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub. Zoologische Jahrbücher, Jena, Bd. ii. p. 303.]

This is Dr. Hartlaub's third essay on birds collected by Dr. Emin Pacha in various points of his Æquatorial-African dominions, stretching from Ladó to the Albert Nyanza. The collection reached Bremen in 1883, but has been kept in hand awaiting further acquisitions. The species of which specimens are now recorded are about 50 in number, and have exact localities and notes attached to each of them. Several of the novelties have been already described (e. g.

Ptyrticus turdinus, *Salpornis emini*, &c.); but we now have further *Pentholea baucis*, *Mirafraga bucolica*, and *Sitagra pelzelni* described as new. Four plates are given, illustrating *Ptyrticus turdinus*, *Xenocichla orientalis*, *Ægithalus parvulus*, *Crateropus tenebrosus*, *Habropyga nonnula*, *Lagonosticta ænochroa*, *Pentholea clericalis* ad. et jr., *Sitagra pelzelni* ad. et jr., and *Symplectes crocatus*. Several essays are introduced on the different species of Wryneck (*Ijnx*) and on the African *Ægithali*. Of the latter Dr. Hartlaub recognizes seven species, and takes occasion to remark on the imperfect treatment of this genus in the seventh volume of the British Museum 'Catalogue,' where Dr. Gadow is said to have united three or four distinct species under *Ægithalus capensis*.

100. Lawrence on new Neotropical Birds.

[Descriptions of new Species of Birds of the Families *Sylviidæ*, *Troglodytidæ*, and *Tyrannidæ*. Ann. New York Acad. of Sci. vol. iv. p. 66.]

The species described are :—*Regulus satrapa aztecus*, from the city of Mexico, smaller, with longer and larger bill and darker coloration than true *R. satrapa*; *Troglodytes brachyurus*, from Tenax, Yucatan, akin to *T. intermedius*; and *Oethæca flaviventris*, from South America (precise locality unknown), nearest to *O. gratiosa*, Sclater.

101. Lorenz on the Birds of the Caucasus.

[Beitrag zur Kenntniss der ornithologischen Fauna an der Nordseite des Kaukasus. Von Th. Lorenz. Sm. folio. Moscow : 1887.]

This memoir gives an account of the collections and observations made by Herr. Th. Lorenz during three visits to the northern slopes of the Caucasus in 1882 and the following years. On the former the author only reached the steppes at the foot of the mountains, but in the two following years he passed his time in the higher regions, making his headquarters at Kislowodsk, which he reached by the Vladikafkas Railway and by road through Patigorsk. After a general account of the district explored and the birds met with, a systematic essay follows on the 161 species of which

examples were obtained. Four of these are new species or subspecies, namely :—*Sturnus caucasicus*, *Phyllopneuste lorenzii*, *Mecistura irbii* var. *caucasica*, and *Ruticilla erythrogastra* var. *severzovi*. Seven species are additional to the Caucasian list, namely :—*Nyctale tengmalmi*, *Phylloscopus nitidus*, *Sitta krueperi*, *Lusciola infuscata*, *Cuculus indicus*, *Sturnus purpurascens*, and *Locustella naevia*. The following species are figured :—*Ruticilla ochrurus*, *Sturnus caucasicus*, *Carpodacus rubicillus*, *Phylloscopus nitidus*, *Phyllopneuste lorenzii*, and *Tetrao mlokosieviczi*, male, female, and young of both sexes. Very interesting details are given respecting the last-named species, and its trachea is figured, showing a remarkable diversity from that of *T. tetrix*. Altogether this is a very good piece of work, containing a mass of original personal observations of great importance to students of Palearctic ornithology.

102. Macfarland on the Ruby-throated Humming-bird.

[Nesting-Habits of the Humming-bird, *Trochilus colubris*. By Prof. Wm. Macfarland. Journ. Trenton Nat. Hist. Soc. No. 2, 1887.]

This little paper contains an account of observations made on the nesting and rearing of the young of the Ruby-throated Humming-bird, the only species found in the eastern portion of the United States.

103. Martin on the Birds of the Brenne.

[Catalogue des Oiseaux de la Brenne : Ornithologie de l'arrondissement du Blanc. Par René Martin. Extrait du Bull. Soc. Zoologique de France, t. xii. 1887.]

We have seldom perused a treatise by a French ornithologist which has so thoroughly impressed us with a belief in the accuracy of its local details as does the present contribution to the history of the avifauna of a little-known district. Situated in the department of Indre, the Brenne is principally an extensive plain studded with some hundreds of lakes and pools of varying dimensions, interspersed with marshy scrub and woods, which, in the drier portions, attain the rank of

forests. Scantly populated and ill cultivated, it may be imagined what attractions such a country must present for resident as well as migratory birds; and we need hardly be surprised at finding that, even after admitting many probable visitors the presence of which has not been absolutely proved, the species obtained in this district remote from the sea are no fewer than 273 in number. Many of the details respecting their food, habits, migration, and distribution are very interesting. It is surprising to learn that *Pernis apivorus* is a resident, and that its numbers have not been observed to receive accessions on migration; on the other hand it appears strange that *Circaëtus gallicus* and *Milvus iclinus* should be rare, while *Aquila pennata* is as yet unknown, in a district apparently so suitable to all three. *Gecinus canus*, generally considered rare in France, is said to be comparatively common in the woods on the left bank of the river Creuse; and the occasional appearance of the Wall Creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) at Nantes, on the Loire, is to some extent explained when we read that this striking bird is often obtained on migration in the department of Indre. Among the Warblers which arrive to breed are *Cettia cetti* and *Calamodyta aquatica*; and, in a country so suited to their skulking habits, almost all the European Rails are common. No fewer than five species of Terns, including all three of the genus *Hydrochelidon*, breed on the *étangs*; but *Sterna anglica* has not yet been obtained, even as a straggler. M. Martin is evidently a close observer, and, although we know that there are many like him in France, we wish that some of them, for instance, MM. Louis and Etienne Bureau, would follow his example by publishing their experiences.

104. *More's Guide to the Dublin Museum.*

[Science and Art Museum, Dublin. Guide to the Natural History Department.—Series I. Vertebrate Animals. (Recent.) Part I. Mammals and Birds, by Alexander G. More, F.L.S., M.R.I.A., Curator of the Natural History Department. 8vo. Dublin: 1887.]

In this well-designed guide, about twenty pages are devoted to Birds, and contain a wonderful amount of compressed

information. In a few lines (sometimes in a couple) Mr. More has succeeded in conveying a good idea of the broad lines of distribution of the 128 families included under the subclass Carinatae, and the 7 which make up the Ratitae, with the addition, in some cases, of descriptions sufficient for recognition by visitors to the Museum. Special attention is called to those species which, although more or less frequent in Great Britain, are either absent from, or of very rare occurrence in Ireland, and we believe that several of the latter have been obtained or recorded for the first time by Mr. More himself. In fact, during the twenty years that he has been at the Dublin Museum, ornithology has received his warmest support, although forming but one of the various branches of Natural History under his care. It is therefore with deep regret that we hear of his resignation, owing to severe illness; but it is satisfactory to know that a good ornithologist, Mr. Percy Evans Freke, M.B.O.U., is a candidate for the vacant post.

105. 'Ornis.'

[Ornis: Internationale Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie. Herausgeben von Dr. R. Blasius und G. v. Hayek. II. Jahrgang (1886), 4 Heft, III. Jahrgang, 1 Heft (1887). Wien.]

The former of these two Parts contains a long and elaborate article by the President, Dr. Rudolf Blasius, on the migration-routes of the Nutcracker in Europe in the autumn of 1885 and the winter of 1885-86, illustrated by descriptions and figures, to show that there are two forms distinguished by the names of *Nucifraga caryocatactes leptorhynchus*, R. Blasius (*N. macrorhynchus*, C. L. Brehm), with a long slender bill, and *N. c. pachyrhynchus*, R. Blasius (*N. brachyrhynchus*, C. L. Brehm), with a short stout bill. This is followed by the interesting "Third Annual Report on the 175 species of birds observed in Denmark in 1885," compiled by Herr Olaf Winge, and, being written in English, it will be especially useful to some of our readers. Herr Benedict Gröndal communicates notes on 28 species noted in Iceland in 1886; supplemented in Heft 1, for 1887, by a few remarks by Herr

P. Nielsen, from Eyrarbakki, the most interesting being the record of *Turdus merula* there in December 1877. The greater part of Heft 1 (pp. 156) is devoted to the first portion of V. v. Tschusi and K. v. Dalla-Torre's annual report on the birds of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

106. *Ridgway on a new Plumed Partridge.*

[Description of a new Plumed Partridge from Sonora. 'Forest and Stream,' xxviii. No. 6, March 3, 1887, p. 106.]

This species, named *Callipepla elegans bensoni*, is based on five specimens obtained by Lieutenant Benson, U.S.A., in Sonora; and we notice it in order that the record of its existence should not be buried in a newspaper.

107. *The Ridgway Ornithological Club's 'Bulletin.'*

[The Ridgway Ornithological Club of Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A. Bulletin, Nos. 1, 2. Chicago: 1887.]

We have recently received Bulletin No. 1, bearing date so far back as December 1883, consisting of a paper, originally published in the 'American Field,' on "Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley," by Messrs. Cooke and Widman, which we have already noticed (*Ibis*, 1884, p. 37) under the authors' names. Bulletin No. 2, dated 1887, is more than twice as thick, and contains "Notes and Observations on the Ornithology of Corpus Christi, Texas," by J. L. Hancock; two papers by H. E. K. Coale, in one of which he describes *Dendroica aestiva morcomi*, subsp. n., and *Dendroica dugesi*, sp. n.; a "List of Birds Breeding near Mt. Carmel, Illinois," by R. Ridgway; "Notes on the Birds of Southern California and South-western Arizona," by G. Frean Morcom (a countryman of our own), with notes by his collector, Mr. F. Stephens; short papers on *Ammodramus beldingi* and *Dryobates nuttalli*, by B. T. Gault; and an interesting "Contribution to our knowledge of Albinism," by the editor, G. L. Toppan, enumerating 154 species of American birds in which the absence of colouring pigment has been observed. We wish this new serial every success in its now independent career.

108. *Salvadori on Birds from Sumatra and Nias Island.*

[Catalogo delle Collezioni ornitologiche fatte presso Siboga in Sumatra e nell' isola Nias dal Signor Elio Modigliani e descritte da Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, vol. iv. p. 514.]

Signor Elio Modigliani was advised by Dr. Beccari to visit the little-known island of Nias; about 80 miles from the west coast of Sumatra, and the result has been a collection containing 62 species. Von Rosenberg, who seems to have been the only previous visitor, recorded 40 other species not obtained by Modigliani. At Siboga, on the west coast of Sumatra, 22 species were procured. Among the birds from Nias Island the following are described as new:—*Syrnium niasense*, *Miglyptes infuscatus*, *Terpsiphone insularis*, *Cittacincla melanura*, *Calornis altirostris*, *Gracula robusta*, *Carpophaga consobrina*, and *Macropygia modigliani*. The series in this fine collection contains 178 specimens from Nias Island.

109. *Saunders's 'List of British Birds.'*

[A List of British Birds, revised to April 1887 by Howard Saunders, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. London: 1887.]

In this list, which is printed on one side of the page only, so as to be available for labels if desired, the scientific and the trivial names of all species regarded as "British" are given. The English names of those species of which fewer than six examples have been obtained are printed in italics, while the names of the doubtfully British birds are further enclosed in square brackets. Introduced species, unless they have actually established themselves, like the Red-legged Partridge, are omitted. Those known to have bred in the United Kingdom within the century are distinguished by an asterisk. With few exceptions, the arrangement and nomenclature of the 'B. O. U. Committee's List' are followed; but it will be noticed that the name *Limosa belgica* (Gmel.) is adopted for the Black-tailed Godwit, in place of the specific name *agocephala*, which has proved to be a synonym of *L. lapponica*, the Bar-tailed Godwit; and a cor-

rection by the Rev. Churchill Babington has been accepted by the employment of the properly formed generic term *Podicipes* for the Grebes, instead of *Podiceps*. Lastly, the Order Tubinares is taken away from proximity to the Gaviæ.

110. *Shufeldt's 'Contributions to Science.'*

[Contributions to Science and Bibliographical Résumé of the Writings of R. W. Shufeldt. By their Author. New York: 1887.]

Dr. Shufeldt sends us a copy of a printed list of his various papers and writings since 1881, over a hundred in number, besides others in the press and in preparation, showing a large amount of work accomplished under not very advantageous circumstances.

111. *Sousa on the Birds of Dahomey.*

[Aves de Dahomey par José Augusto de Sousa. Jorn. Acad. Sci. Lisboa, No. xlv. pp. 217-219.]

A first remittance from Mr. Francis Newton to the Lisbon Museum contains sixteen species, none of them new to science, from Saõ de Ajudá and other places in the kingdom of Dahomey; ten of these are included in Dr. Barboza du Bocage's 'Ornithologie d'Angola.'

112. *Stejneger on Brachyrhamphus perdix.*

[On *Brachyrhamphus* [sic] *perdix* (Pall.) and its nearest Allies. By Leonhard Stejneger. Zeitschr. f. d. gesammte Ornithol. 1886, p. 210.]

A specimen of "Murrelet" received from Kamtschatka has convinced Dr. Stejneger that Pallas's *Cephus perdix* is a perfectly valid species, nearest to *Brachyrhamphus marmoratus* (Gmel.), but resembling *B. brevirostris* (Vig.), usually known as *B. kittlitzii*, in the coloration of its upper parts in summer. A coloured plate of the resuscitated species and full descriptions of it and of the other members of the group are given.